World Bank opposition to procurement operations of State owned Corporations

1489. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has criticised operations of the state owned seeds corporations as "fairly inefficient" and if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(b) whether it is a fact that World Bank is opposed to public marketing intervention or procurement operations for foodgrains crops, if so, what are the reasons therefor and Government's response to such recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CORPORATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b) It appears that Hon'ble Member seeks information on the basis of the World Bank's report. The report is prepared and circulated by the World Bank to the donor countries/agencies each year prior to the annual Indian Consortium meeting in order to focus on salient aspects of the Indian economy and to serve as a background paper during the discussions.

It is, however, an internal document of the World Bank. The report is not published. The views and suggestions expressed in the report are those of the World Bank. The distribution of this report by the Bank is restricted. The recipients of the report are not authorised to disclose its contents.

Problems of Akhil Gujarat Machhimar Mahamandal, Veraval

1490. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether fishing is permitted to foreigners in Indian territorial waters, if so, the foreign companies allowed to fish in Indian waters and what are the conditions laid down for this;

(b) whether the Minister of State for Agriculture received a memorandum from the Akhil Gujarat Machhimar Mahamandal, Veraval about their grievances and problems, and if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether foreign fishing boats are fishing unauthorisedly, if so, whether they are arrested and prosecuted;

(d) whether big fishing companies are allotted excise free diesel oil while small fishermen are denied of this facility;

(e) what are the new technologies being applied to develop fishing industries and particularly for small fishermen; and

(f) what sort of economic and administrative assistance is being given to small fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CORPORATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Akhil Gujarat Machhimar Mahamandal, Veraval has represented for dec-casing the price of diesel, petrol and kerosene for fishermen and for the removal of Central excise duty on fishing equipments. The proposal for extending the excise duty concession on HSD oil to the small mechanised fishing-boats was examined by the Government; but it was not found possible to implement it owing to severe administrative difficulties and risk to the revenue.

(c) Unauhtorised foreign fishing vessels, if found fishing in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone, are apprehended by the coast guard and prosecuted as per the provisions of the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981.

(d) Rebate on Central excise duty on HSD oil is available for deep sea fishing veessels of 13.7 m length and above fitted with engines of 150 BHP and above at the following rates—

(1) At the flat rate of 50 per cent.

(2) Additional rebate of 50 per cent of excise duty of each 1.08 KL of diesel for every ton of prawn exported.

(e) diversified fishing methods to exploit fishery resources other than shrimp, production of value added products, utilisation of trash fish, facilities for better handling offish, mari-culture for production of pearls, motorisation of' traditional craft, introduction of beach landing craft and high opening trawl nets etc. are the newer technologies applied for developing the fishing industry, particularly, the traditional sector.

(f) A number of production-oriented and welfare programmes aimed at uplifting the economic conditions of small fishermen are implemented. Some of the important programmes are—

(1) supply of essential fishery requisites on subsidy/loan basis;

(2) subsidy on outboard motors, in-board engines and mechanised boats;

(3) loan facilities for acquisition of mechanised boats;

(4) training programmes for fishermen;

(5) support for production, marketing, processing, storage etc. through Cooperatives;

(6) development of small landing and berthing facilities along the coasts for traditional and small mechanised boats;

(7) brackish water fish/prawn farming in Maritime States on area development basis;

(8) legislation to demarcate areas of operation for traditional boats, small mechanised boats and large fishing vessels; and

(9) welfare schemes such as Group Insurance, Techno-socio-economic survey and National Welfare Fund for Fishermen.

Failure of summer groundnut crop in Gujarat

1491. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that summer groundnut crop in Gujarat has miserably failed, if so, what is the estimated crop of the current year in the country, and that during the last three years; and

(b) what are the main reasons for the low level of production of major oilseeds per hectare in the country compared to other edible oilseed producing countries, and what is the comparative position with regard to those countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Final estimates of production of summer groundnut crop during 1985-86 have not been received from Gujarat/other States. In fact, they have not even fallen due yet. However, according to the preliminary reports received from the State Government, both area and production of summer groundnut in Gujarat is expected to be lower during the current year. The all-India production of summer groundnut during last three years is as below:

1982-83 . . .	15.4 Lakh tonnes
1983-84 . . .	18.1 Lakh tonnes
1984-85 . . .	10.6 Lakh tonnes